driver's badge issued by the Transport Department of the Delhi Administration. Antecedents of every driver are verified by he Delhi Police before a driver's badge is issued by the Transport Department.

Resentment Among Tribal of Lahaul-Spiti Regarding Unrestricted Entry of Foreigners

1811. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a widespread resentment in tribals of Lahaul-Spiti & Kinnov (Himachal) due to Government's decision of unrestricted entry of foreigners; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) In order to promote toruism in Himachal Pradesh and also on the persistent demand of the State Government, it was decided in November, 1991 to open some areas of tourist interest to foreign group tourists. However, entry of foreign group tourists to these areas is not unrestricted, as they the required to take certain prescribed routes. No representation has so far been received against the decision of the Government of India in this regard.

कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाना

1812. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिये 43 तेल क्षेत्रों से तेल निकालने का उत्तरदायित्व सौंपने हेतु विभिन्न संस्थाओं से पेशकश मांगी थी;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन तेल क्षेत्रों से तेल निकालने का उत्तरदायित्व संभालने के लिये 117 पेशकशें प्राप्त हुई;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन पेशकशों के प्राप्त होने के बाद कोई निर्णय कर उक्त काम का उत्तरदायित्व सौंप दिया है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो मार्च, 1993 के अन्त तक कुल कितने मामलों में अंतिम रूप से निर्णय कर दिया गया ; और

(ङ) इन पेशकशों पर अविलंब निर्णय न लिये जाने के क्या कारण है और इन पेशकशों पर निर्णय लेने में कुल कितना समय लगने की संभावना है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) से (ङ) बोलियों का मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है । बोलीदाताओं के साथ वार्ता करने के बाद संविदाओं को अंतिम रूप दिया जायेगा और आशा है कि इस प्रक्रिया में कम से कम 4–5 महीने लग जायेंगे ।

Mathura Refinery

1813. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mathura refinery had udertaken a study with Aligarh Muslim University in 1987 to study and compare the effect of refinery effluent on irrigation as compared to

ground water irrigation through experimental farming;

(b) if so, what were the objectives of the study, the details thereof;

(c) whether the findings of the study have been implemented; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Mathura Refinery had sponsored a 5 year study project with Aligarh Muslim University from September, 1987 to November, 1992, with the following objectives:

(1) To evaluate the effect of treated e?uent irrigation (i) crop yield and quality and (ii) soil characteristics.

(2) To recommend suitable agricultural practices to ameliorate the adverse effects of effluent irrigation, if any.

(c) and (d) The final report is yet to be submitted by the Aligarh Muslim University.

Revelation on Alleged Kickbacks pad

1814. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Vice-President, Mr. Alexander Rutskoi, has revealed recently that India has paid a kickback in the purchase of crude oil from Russia;

(b) whether Government has ordered an investigation into the charge; and

(c) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Such a news item has appeared in some sections of the Press.

(b) and (c) Purchases of Russian crude oil during 1992 was carried out under the "Trade Protocol between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for 1992". All trade adjustments and payments of imports and exports from the Russian Federation are regulated by the provisions of this protocol. Consequently, the purported payment stated to have been made is not feasible under the Inter-Governmental arrangements.

Signing of Mou between Oman and Caltex Corporation

1815. SHRI SURESH KALAMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oman has signed a memorandum of understanding with Caltex Corporation for the establishment of a new refinery in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the memorandum with particular reference to the capacity and ownership of the proposed refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA):)a3 and (b) Govt. of India is not aware of any MOU having been signed between Oman and Caltex Corporation in this regard. However, in the Memoranda of Understanding signed between BPCL|HPCL with Oman Oil Company, a provision exists that either of the companies can perform their obligations under the MOU through one of its affiliates.